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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Stratton for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 56,285 acres.

Estimated Population. 4,653.

Inhabited Houses. 1,407.

Rateable Value. £11,039.

Penny Rate Produces. £52 16s. 0¾d.

Physical and General Character. Agricultural.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of Deaths, 48. Males 23. Females 25. Rate per 1,000, 10·3.

Total number of Births, 59. Males 28. Females 31. Rate per 1,000, 12·7.

Total number of Deaths under 1 year. Females 3.

Natural Increase, 11.

Infectious Diseases Notified. Scarlet Fever 7. Diptheria 1.
Puerperal Pyrexia 1. Erysipelas 1.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. **Tuberculosis.** All cases notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

2. **Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare.** There are resident Midwives in the District provided by the District Nursing Association, with assistance from the County Council. A clinic is held once a month in Bude when a resident Doctor inspects all the children brought to him.

3. **Fever Cases.** An Isolation Hospital containing 14 beds is maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils.

4. **Small Pox.** No local Hospital.

5. **Cottage Hospital** situated at Stratton contains 18 beds and is supported by voluntary contributions and payments from the patients.

6. **Ambulance.** A motor Ambulance is provided jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils and is kept at Bude.

7. **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** A Clinic is held once a month at Bude.

8. **Public Health Officers.**
    1. Part time Medical Officer of Health.
    2. Whole time Sanitary Inspector.

9. **Professional Nursing in the Homes.** Provided by the Local Nursing Association.

10. **Chemical Work** is carried out by the County Analyst.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water.** With the exception of Marhamchurch and part of Poundstock, which are supplied by the Bude-Stratton Urban District Water Supply, the villages are supplied by pumps and wells. In most Districts during the past year there has been no shortage. Boring operations have been going on for a supply for Kilkhampton. As these operations are not yet completed it is impossible to say what the result will be. Woodford, a small hamlet in Morwenstow, is the most difficult problem for providing a satisfactory water supply and if a drought does come it will be difficult to supply adequate water.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** No cases of pollution have been reported.

3. **Drainage and Sewerage.** The larger villages are partially sewered and a number of houses are drained into septic tanks or cesspits. Earth closets are mostly in use in the District. There has been no nuisance arising from defective drainage in the District during the past year.

4. **Scavenging.** Refuse dumps are provided by the Council in most of the Parishes. Widemouth, being a small seaside resort which is growing, is provided for by the Council.

Housing Statistics.

Number of New Houses, 25.
By the Local Authority, Nil.
By other persons, 25.

During the year a general survey of the housing conditions throughout the district has been carried out. The results of this survey are now being considered by the Council.

A number of defective cottages have been discovered and the Council have decided that in all cases where these cottages justify reconstruction, the owners are to be requested to carry out the necessary improvements with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. There has already been a good response on the part of the owners to the Council's informal action in this matter.

There are a certain number of cottages which are either by their situation or structural condition unsuitable for reconditioning and these will be dealt with at a later date under the Housing Act, 1936.

The Council continue to make good use in general of the facilities afforded by the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and an improvement in the standard of the housing conditions throughout the District is now becoming apparent.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 618.

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 766.

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 122.

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose, 259.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 14.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 65.

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—**

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 41.

3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

(*a*) **Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners. Nil.
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners, Nil.

(*b*) **Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners, Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners, Nil.

(*c*) **Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.

(*d*) **Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

4. **Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding.**

(*a*) (1) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year, 5.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein, 5.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein, 27.

(*b*) Number of new cases reported during the year, 3.

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 1.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases, $5\frac{1}{2}$.

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, Nil.

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, Nil.

Schools.

A new school has been completed at Stratton for the education of children over 11 living in the adjoining Parishes. This relieves the village schools.

The representations made to the County Authority with regard to the extremely unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements to the school at Week St. Mary have now resulted in an entirely new system of Water Closets and drains, which has been connected to the public sewer recently provided by this Council, being installed. No improvements in the sanitary arrangements to the Council Schools at North Tamerton and Grimscott has yet been effected.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

The cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected, and the steady improvement in the methods of clean milk production continues.

Meat.

The slaughterhouses are inspected frequently. There is no public slaughter house. Number of Private Slaughter Houses. Registered 3. Licensed 8.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Bovines.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—
Number inspected	98	168	42
All diseases except Tuberculosis.			
Whole Carcases condemned ...	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	8	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	15·3	5·4	7·1
Tuberculosis only.			
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4·1	—	7·1

Other Food.

No cases of unsound food have been reported.

Bakehouses.

The Bakehouses are well kept and clean.

T. A KING,
M.O.H.